Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-14 NSC-10

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O 222232 Z MAR 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, US LI

SUBJECT: NIXON AFRICAN VISIT

REF: MONROVIA 1424

1. FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT PORTION OF NIXON MARCH 15 PRESS CONFERENCE:

QUOTE Q. MR. PRESIDENT, CAN YOU TELL US YOUR TRAVEL PLANS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING 1973?

A. WELL, I HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT I HAD NO IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PLANS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES. I HAVE RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND FROM THE NSC (NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL) FOR WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE URGENT TRAVEL, ONE TO EUROPE, BECAUSE OF OUR INTEREST IN NATO, SECOND TO LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE I HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO LATIN AMERICA, AND THIRD TO AFRICA BECAUSE I HAVE NOT TRAVELED THERE.

I DO NOT MEAN TO SUGGEST BY THAT THAT TRAVEL BY THE PRESIDENT TO THESE PLACES IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE TO FOREIGN POLICY; BUT I THINK THIS IS THE CONCERN THAT MANY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR FOREIGN POLICY EXPERTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE NSC, THE CONCERN THEY HAVE. THEY FEEL THAT THE ENORMOUS INTEREST THAT HAS BEEN CREATED BY GOING TO PEKING AND GOING TO MOSCOW INDICATES THAT WE DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, WE DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR FRIENDS IN AFRICA, AND WE DO NOT CARE ABOUT OUR FRIENDS IN EUROPE AS WELL. INCIDENTALLY, JAPAN IS ANOTHER ON THE LIST.

NOW, HOW WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK SOME OF THESE TRIPS IN, I DO NOT KNOW. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRIP SOMETIME DURING THE SUMMER OR SHORTLY BEFORE THE SUMMER BEGINS, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET MADE A DECISION BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER THINGS ON AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A TRIP IN THE FALL, BUT HOW WE CAN SELECT AMONG THESE, I HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED. END QUOTE.

2. IN ADDITION, WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE DATED MARCH 14 BY DOROTHY MCCARDLE QUOTED PRESIDENT AS STATING, "I'M GOING TO AFRICA DURING MY SECOND TERM," DURING WHITE HOUSE TEAFOR AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WOMEN MARCH 13. ROGERS

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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